

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1999

592C0845

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1005

Introduced by: Representative Volesky

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Congratulating the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad
2 and the Landowner Advisory Board for achieving agreement on the railroad's expansion
3 project.

4 WHEREAS, South Dakota has traditionally been railroad poor due to the fact that the
5 transcontinentals were built around the Great Sioux Reservation that occupied most of western
6 South Dakota during the late nineteenth century; and

7 WHEREAS, economical and timely rail transport is of critical importance in a state heavily
8 dependent on agriculture, livestock raising, lumbering, and mining; and

9 WHEREAS, the national railroad system has been steadily losing traffic to motorized
10 transport throughout the current century; and

11 WHEREAS, South Dakota was acutely threatened by the rail crisis in the 1970s and 1980s
12 when several major carriers withdrew service on important lines; and

13 WHEREAS, the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad stepped forward at that time to pick
14 up the slack and save a large portion of the threatened track and service; and

15 WHEREAS, the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad has proposed and initiated plans for
16 expansion which could be vital to the long-term stabilization of the state's rail system; and

17 WHEREAS, the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad has recently concluded a wide-

1 ranging agreement with the Landowner Advisory Board composed of ranchers from South
2 Dakota and Wyoming which will facilitate an ambitious expansion of track and service that bodes
3 well for all South Dakota rail users:

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
5 fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Dakota,
6 Minnesota & Eastern Railroad and the Landowner Advisory Board be heartily applauded for
7 their successful negotiations and for the goodwill displayed on both sides.